

NOTE ON *HALIOTIS SIEBOLDII*, REEVE.

By E. A. SMITH, I.S.O.

Read 14th November, 1913.

THE unique specimen described by Reeve<sup>1</sup> as *Haliotis sieboldii* has been regarded by the monographers Sowerby,<sup>2</sup> Weinkauff,<sup>3</sup> and Pilsbry,<sup>4</sup> merely as a probable monstrosity of the *Haliotis gigantea* of Chemnitz as that species was defined by Deshayes<sup>5</sup> and is now understood.

A second, much larger specimen, has been presented to the British Museum by Mr. Henry Harvey, to whom the Museum has been indebted for many remarkable conchological abnormalities, and also for nearly all the types and figured specimens contained in the Sylvanus Hanley Collection.

The shell in question unfortunately has been denuded of its outer coating, so that only the pearly structure remains. The form, however, is practically identical with that of the type as depicted by Reeve, showing every appearance of regularity in its growth, and therefore I am inclined to regard these two specimens, not as abnormalities, but as representatives, either of a distinct species, or, at all events, of a local variation of the Chemnitzian shell.

A remarkable feature of *H. sieboldii*, besides its characteristic convex shape, is the almost marginal position of the spire. This, in the type, is rather eroded, but appears to have been almost on the margin, coiling away from it but very little. In Mr. Harvey's larger specimen it is more evident, the apex being at a distance of 13 mm. from the edge of the peristome.

Excepting towards the spire, the curve of the line of perforations is very slight as shown in Reeve's figures, whereas in typical examples of *H. gigantea* the curve is conspicuous, and the apex of the spire in a shell of the same size is from 25 to 30 mm. from the margin. Both examples of *H. sieboldii* are strongly radiately costate, so that the peristome is conspicuously frilled and the interior deeply sulcate.

The larger shell is 170 mm. in length, 125 in diameter, and 55 in depth.

<sup>1</sup> Conch. Iconica, vol. iii, figs. 32a-b.

<sup>2</sup> Thesaurus Conch., vol. v, p. 18, pl. 437, fig. 72.

<sup>3</sup> Conchylien-Cab., p. 80, pl. xxx, fig. 1.

<sup>4</sup> Man. Conch., vol. xii, p. 85, pl. xv, figs. 78, 79.

<sup>5</sup> Lamarck's Anim. sans Vert., 2nd ed., vol. ix, p. 24.